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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Soviet Army Activities at Neuruppin

DATE DISTR. 16 April 1957

(training exercises)

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report which gives the following information concerning Soviet Army activities at Neuruppin:

1. Training activity in throwing hand grenades.
2. Anti-aircraft target practise.
3. Tank exercises at the Gentzrode training area.
4. Construction of buildings at the Pionierlager at Gentzrode.
5. Firing practice and bridge building for tank crossings at the Molchowsee.
6. Military rail shipments made up at the Altruppin station.

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MILITARYSoviet Army NEURUPPIN
(15 Jan - 14 Feb 57)~~SECRET~~

1. At the exit of the FEHBELLINER STRASSE, 52.65, there is a relatively small training ground mainly for infantry, with wire obstacles, trenches, climbing walls, etc.

2. 30 Jan 57

At 11.00 hrs, approx. 30 men, black/red sbds, in fighting order were seen practising hand-grenade throwing.

3. At the same time target practice was in progress with 3 x 85mm. AA guns. The guns were in a triangular formation and dug in to an approximate depth of 1.4m., so that only the barrels could be seen.

TRAINING AREA GENTZRODE

4. 15 - 16 Jan 57

From 10.00 hrs, tank exercises took place. On each day approx. 15 AFVs comprising T-54, T-34/85 and JSU-152, took part.

5. The concentration area for these exercises was at 516.782. The AFVs moved off in a NW direction. 4 tanks led, covering a frontage of approx. 600m. (approx. 150m. between tanks). Approx. 200m. behind the leaders, 3 tanks followed, covering the gaps between the leading tanks, All groups took up this assault formation. All AFVs had extended acrials.
6. At approx. 506.726 the leading tanks halted and each fired a single shot. After firing, the tanks proceeded approx. 200 - 300m. and again fired from a stationary position. In no instance did the tanks fire all together.

7. 25 Jan 57

3 x JS tanks were seen camouflaged at 513.709. No manoeuvres were taking place at that time.

PIONIERLAGER GENTZRODE

8. This camp is located at an old estate 522.725. Some of the huts dismantled last year at the camp situated between SCHWEINRICH and ZECHLIN FLECKEN, have been erected here. In addition, in 1956 an officers' married quarter for 12 families, was built.
9. The strength of the Pioneerlager is estimated between 3,000 - 4,000 all ranks.

TRAINING ON MOLCHOW SEE

10. 11 Feb 57

An exercise with firing practice took place on both sides of the MOLCHOW SEE and in the area of KRANGEN. The following vehicles were observed to have taken part:

- (a) T-34/85 and JS-2.
- (b) APC 6 x 6 and "White APCs.
- (c) Amphibious vehicles.
- (d) 160mm. Mortars.

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11. Bridge building for tank crossings over the southern bottle-neck of the MOLCHOW SEE at 546.704 also took place. Tank crossings could be confirmed by their track marks.

14 Feb 57

The Pontoon bridge was pulled back along the bank to allow free river traffic. The bridge consisted of 9 pontoons, with boarded surface, approx. 4m. wide.

12. On the west bank a jetty approx. 10m. long and 4m. broad and made of wooden piles was built into the water. A similar jetty was also built on the east bank but this was only 3m. long.
13. Much traffic between KRAGEN/MOLCHOW SEE and the station at ALT RUPPIN was observed from the night of 11 Feb to the night of 12 Feb, connected with these exercises and for entraining purposes. On 12 Feb, 12 petrol Bowsers were observed

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14. The following trains were made up at ALT RUPPIN station:

(a) 12 Feb 57

At 07.45 hrs, departing in the direction of NEURUPPIN:

- (i) 45 x Flats each with an amphibious vehicle either 2 or 3 axled.

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(b) 12 Feb 57

At 10.30 hrs, in the direction of HERZBERG:

- (i) Approx. 30 APC 6 x 6 and 2 axled White APCs on flats.

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(c) 12 Feb 57

At 18.45 hrs, in the direction of NEURUPPIN:

- (i) 13 x tanks on flats covered by tarpaulins.
 (ii) Approx. 13 x APC 6 x 6 on flats.
 (iii) Approx. 25 Flats and 160mm. Mortars.

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FURTHER ENTRAINING AT ALT RUPPIN15. 21 Jan 57

At 09.00 hrs, at ALT RUPPIN station 2 x T-54, 2 x JSU-152 and []
 [] The train left in the direction of NEURUPPIN
 at 12.30 hrs.

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16. 29 Jan 57

1 x JSU-152 and 1 x Amphibious tank [] were loaded on to a
 civilian goods train which left in the direction of NEURUPPIN at
 17.00 hrs.

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